

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A document retrieval apparatus, comprising:
a query character string input unit that accepts an input of a query character string including a plurality of retrieval keywords;
a document select unit that selects one or more documents that match the query character string from a document database;
a retrieval result output unit that presents retrieval results of the selected documents to a user;
a unit that allows a user to designate one of the selected documents; and
a document output unit that presents the contents of one of the selected documents designated by the user, the document output unit determining a manner in which the retrieval keywords are highlighted based on an extent to which each of the retrieval keywords has contributed to document selection;
wherein the query character string input unit allows a user to designate a word other than the retrieval keywords, the word can be highlighted by the document output unit in the presented one of the selected documents.

9. (Original) The document retrieval apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the query character string input unit accepts a designation of a retrieval keyword that is not to be highlighted in the designated one of the selected documents.

10-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A method of retrieving documents, comprising the steps of: accepting an input of a query character string including a plurality of retrieval keywords; selecting one or more documents that match the query character string from a document database;

presenting retrieval results of the selected documents to a user, the user designating one of the selected documents; and

presenting the contents of one of the selected documents designated by the user, and highlighting the retrieval keywords based on an extent to which each of the retrieval keywords has contributed to document selection;

wherein in the step of accepting an input of the query character string, a word other than the retrieval keywords is designated by a user, and the designated word is highlighted in the presented one of the selected documents.

21. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein a retrieval keyword that is not to be highlighted in the designated one of the selected documents can be designated.

22-26. (Canceled)